

Remarks

These remarks are subsequent to and responsive to the September 13, 2006 Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due.

As an initial matter, applicant would like to thank the Examiner for correcting the spelling of his name and for indicating the allowability of Claims 1-4, 8, 10-13 and 17.

Claims 1-4, 8, 10-13 and 17 are now in this case. Applicant has added dependant Claims 18-20. Claims 18-20 were originally filed with the application as Claims 5, 7 and 9. Claims 5, 7 and 9 were inadvertently cancelled instead of withdrawn as a result of a restriction requirement. Claims 18-20 each depend from allowed Claim 1 and as such require no additional search or examination and are allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable. The fee for these additional claims was included in the original application fee. As such no additional claim fee is due.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

These comments are responsive to the Reasons for Allowance set forth in the September 13, 2006 Notice of Allowability. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of allowable subject matter, however, applicants point out that the reasons for patentability of the claims are not limited to the reasons set forth in the September 13, 2006 Notice of Allowability and additional reasons for allowability may exist, each of which may be independently sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more pending claims. Additionally, applicant would like to clarify the last statement about the Esposito reference. There is no motivation to provide the connector formed from a one-piece blank with at least one of the ribs. Applicant respectfully reserves his right to

introduce, articulate, or otherwise comment on any additional reasons for patentability as may be appropriate in any future proceedings concerning the claimed invention.

No new matter has been added.

The issue and publication fees are enclosed herewith.

The claims are proper and patentable. Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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